

**ICURD research
project 2010/2011**



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| title of project | A Future for the Past: the Economic Value of Historic Preservation |
| main research goal | To determine how historic preservation in Gainesville impacts the local economy |
| main research question | How does historic preservation in Gainesville impact the local economy? |
| main research methods | Interviews, quantitative analysis of property values, spatial analysis of historic districts and economic activities |
| main results (description of projects and findings) | <p>Scientific literature has described and explained the linkages between economic development and historic preservation extensively. Historic preservation has led to inputs through cultural tourism, downtown revitalization, higher property values and multiplier effects resulting from government spending on historic preservation. Research has mainly focused on historic preservation in large metropolitan areas. This research focuses on the case of a medium sized city with a large university in the north of Florida. An extensive literary study, data analysis and interviews have shown that the economy of Gainesville benefits from having a large stock of built heritage. Preservationist's motives to undertake preservation activities are more because of a sense of place and quality of life that it offers and the aesthetic quality. Sense of place and quality of life have led to economic benefits. The economy of Gainesville has experienced downtown revitalization and property values in historic districts have risen faster than property values in comparable neighborhoods. Also, there seems to be a spatial clustering between historic districts and economic activities. This empirical evidence points to historic preservation as a development tool, therefore, government and private spending on historic preservation is justified from an economic and cultural point of view.</p> |
| key words | Historic Preservation, Gainesville, Economic Impact, Downtown Revitalization, Sense of Place. |